

Mr. Mastroianni, Press

March 31, 1962

Mr. Metzler, PD

April 1, 1962

Miss Kirkwood, S. Press

April 5, 1962

The Cleveland Museum of Art has recently acquired FIGURE OF A SAINT which was executed about 1730 in Germany or Austria.

The sculpture is very close in style to the works of Diego Carlone, but can only be attributed to him since Carlone's documented works are in stucco and this piece is of wood. It is attributable to him because of its closeness in style to his stucco works. It may however have been done, under his direct supervision, by a member of his circle.

Wounds on the left flank of the sculpture indicate that it may have been an image of St. Sebastian designed for a church. Traces of gesso and gilt in the drapery folds reveal that it was once polychromed.

Carlone was born near Como, Italy in 1674 and died there in 1750. Most of his active career, however, was spent in Switzerland, Austria and Southern Germany. He was a member of a large family of artists most of whom also worked north of the Alps.

The FIGURE OF A SAINT combines the qualities of Roman sculpture with the distinct imprint of northern taste. The vigorous movement of the body and emotional expression of the face reflect the influence of high baroque Roman sculpture especially that of Bernini. Northern influence is seen in the choice of materials and the delicate ornamental quality of the drapery.

It was through such artists as Diego Carlone that the Italian baroque style was introduced to northern Europe. The FIGURE OF A SAINT was purchased through the John L. Severance Fund.

Metzler 32480 - A

Kirkwood 32480 - A

Mastroianni 32480 - E

M. 3.22.62

3.21.62 Metzler

61.86 FIGURE OF A SAINT

Attributed to Diego Carlone, 1674 - 1750

German or Austrian, c. 1725-30

John L. Severance Fund

Very close in style to works of Diego Carlone. However, his documented sculpture is entirely in stucco, and since this piece is wood, it can only be attributed to him. May have been made by him or a member of his circle under his direct supervision. There are traces of gesso and gilt in the depths of some of the folds in the drapery, so we must assume that the figure was once polychromed. Probably originally used in a church. On the figure's left flank are indications of wounds, so this may have been the figure of St. Sebastian.

Diego Carlone was born in the town of Scaria, near Como, in Italy in 1674. He died there in 1750. However, most of his active career as an artist was spent in the north, in Switzerland, Austria and Southern Germany. He was a member of a large family of artists, most of whom worked also north of the Alps.

This figure was probably made about 1730. The vigor and movement of the form and emotionalism of the expression reflect the influence of the high baroque sculpture of Rome, particularly the works of Bernini. It was through the agency of such artists as Diego Carlone that the Italian baroque style was brought to northern Europe. This imprint of northern taste is already apparent in this FIGURE OF A SAINT in the choice of materials and in the delicacy and ornamental quality of the drapery.

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Assistant Curator of
Decorative Arts

vic - 32480 A, C, D, E, G